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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Meet The Press

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SUBJECT Full Text

BILL MONROE: Our guest today on Meet the press is Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities. The committee was established to conduct an investigation of government intelligence operations. It has just completed its inquiry into charges that the CIA was involved in assassination plots. Senator Church has been in the Senate for 18 years and is a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

We'll have the first questions now from Ford Rowan of NBC News.

FORD ROWAN: Senator, I'd like to ask about that investigation of alleged assassination plots. So far, most of the investigation that's been discussed in the press involved heads of state. I'd like to ask if your committee has come across any evidence involving CIA-instigated murders of people other than heads of state.

SENATOR FRANK CHURCH: The answer to that is no.

ROWAN: Have you looked into the CIA's Phoenix program in Vietnam?

SENATOR CHURCH: We will look into that program as a part of our investigation of covert operations. Thus far, as you know, the committee itself has been necessarily confined to the assassination issue, though the staff has proceeded, during the interim, to develop the material over the whole spectrum of the committee's investigation. We'll get to that as quickly as we issue the report on assassinations.

ROWAN: Have you looked into the CIA's Hument (?) program